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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/708,492	03/08/2004	William P. Fornof	28679/05725	2491

24024 7590 08/25/2004

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EXAMINER

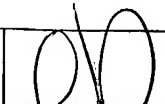
SPITZER, ROBERT H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1724

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/708,492	FORNOF ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert H. Spitzer	1724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/29/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-6,8,9 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 is indefinite because in line 16, there is no direct antecedent basis for the recitation of "said outlet inlet", which term also makes no sense. It appears that "outlet" should be canceled. Claim 2 is indefinite because it recites "a shell" without any correlation to "a shell" already recited in claim 1. Claim 3 is indefinite because it depends from itself. Claim 3 should be amended to depend from claim 2. Claim 4 is indefinite because it depends from itself. Claim 4 should be amended to depend from claim 3. Claim 8 is indefinite because there is no direct antecedent basis for the recitations of "said outlet inlet" and "said coalescing element". Claim 9 is indefinite because there is no direct antecedent basis for the recitation of "the biasing assembly". Claim 14 is indefinite because in line 9, there is no direct antecedent basis for the recitation of "the outlet inlet". Claim 16 is indefinite because there is no direct antecedent basis for the recitation of "the means for permitting air flow in only one or two directions", as "or" was not previously used. Claim 17 is indefinite because there is no direct antecedent basis for the following recitations: "the outlet" in line 6; "the inlet outlet" in line 8; and, "said inlet outlet" in lines 10 and 11. Claims 5,6,15,18 and 19 are indefinite because they depend from the above indefinite claims.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 7 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the structure of Goodell (5,286,283), wherein the feed air passes through the coalescer in the drying direction but does not pass through the coalescer in a purge direction, where such coalescer is bypassed.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodell (5,286,283) in view of Foltz (3,802,160). The claim differs from the disclosure of Goodell ('283) in the coalescer element including a wicking element attached thereto. Foltz ('160) shows the use of a wicking element 40 which is attached to a coalescing layer for the removal of the coalesced liquid. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the coalescer element of Goodell ('283) with a wicking layer thereon, in view of the showing of Foltz ('160), so that the liquid which is coalesced by the element will be removed therefrom during the purge gas flow and not reintrained in the feed air stream when the device is next used.

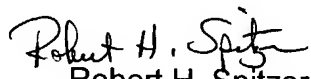
7. Claims 1-6 and 14-19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.
8. Claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
9. The remaining references listed on both the PTO-1449 and on the PTO-892 show art of interest, the majority of which were previously cited in the parent case.
10. Applicants' response to this Office action should also include the following editorial changes: para. [0001], line 2, the status of the parent case should be updated, if appropriate; para. [0017], line 6, "which are" should be "which is"; claim 2, line 2, "herein" should be "wherein"; claim 7, line 12, "o" should be "to"; and, claim 14, line 9, "a" should be "an".
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert H. Spitzer whose telephone number is (571) 272-1167. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from (5:30AM-4:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1724

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 17, 2004


Robert H. Spitzer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724
August 17, 2004